MAYOR & COUNCIL AGENDA COVER SHEET

MEETING DATE:

May 30, 2006

CALL TO PODIUM:

Lt. Tom Campbell

RESPONSIBLE STAFF:

Lt. Tom Campbell

AGENDA ITEM:
(please check one)

X	Presentation
	Proclamation/Certificate
	Appointment
	Public Hearing
	Historic District
	Consent Item
	Ordinance
	Resolution
	Policy Discussion
X	Work Session Discussion Item
	Other:

PUBLIC HEARING HISTORY:

(Please complete this section if agenda item is a public hearing)

Introduced	
Advertised	
Hearing Date	
Record Held Open	
Policy Discussion	

TITLE:

An Overview of Automated Traffic Enforcement

SUPPORTING BACKGROUND:

During the 2005 legislative session, the General Assembly approved HB 443 which authorized Montgomery County police and municipal police departments within the County to use photo radar enforcement. This is also referred to as automated traffic enforcement. While the Governor vetoed HB 443, the General Assembly overrode at the beginning of the 2006 legislative session.

Key components of the legislation include the following:

- Photo radar enforcement can only be used on residential streets with a posted speed limit of 35 mph or less or in school zones.
- Vehicle must be exceeding the speed limit by 10 mph to receive a citation.
- Civil penalty is $40 per violation—no points are assessed against the driver.

Automated Traffic Enforcement Systems first appeared in Europe more than 20 years ago. 1991 marked the first year they were used in the United States when New York City installed its red light cameras. By August 2006, 24 states use Automated Enforcement. This technology has been endorsed by agencies such as AAA, NHTSA, and the IIHS.

Why consider Automated Enforcement? (1) There is a pressing need to control speeding on roadways. Speed is a major cause of fatal crashes. Nationally, 31 percent of all fatal crashes are attributed to excessive speed killing more than 1000 per month. (2) Incidents of speeding and aggressive driving have increased dramatically over the past decade. In 2005 officers issued approximately 1964 citations for speeding.

Automated speed enforcement relies on either a radar or LIDAR sensor to determine a vehicles speed or it uses an in-pavement sensor. When the vehicle is speeding it triggers the camera which takes two photos of the vehicles rear license plate only. Either the radar or LIDAR systems can be utilized in a fixed or mobile configuration.

The benefits to the automated systems are that they are proven to change behavior, save lives, and leads to more efficient use of personnel.

DESIRED OUTCOME:

Hear presentation and provide guidance to staff.